

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

Hearing Date: April 21, 2021 8:00 AM

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COMMENTS FOR: HB 2320

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Victoria Hanson

self - retired

Corpus Christi, TX

Please vote Yes on HB 2320

Making the pre-filling of early voter applications for another a state jail felony will help to ensure integrity in our voting system.

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Bill Sargent, Former Chief Deputy Clerk for Elections, Galveston County

Self

Galveston, TX

I fully support this legislation as far as it goes. The author might want to consider adding the following language to his bill.

Section 1 - Sec 84.0042 (a)(1)

(a) A person commits an offense if the person:

(1) indicates the ground of eligibility for early voting on an applications for ballot by mail; [ADD: or

(2) indicates the voter's choice of political party, or

(3) indicates that the voter wants an annual ballot by mail;] and

(4) distributes the application to an applicant with intent that the applicant will submit the application on the applicant's behalf to the early voting clerk.

The justification for adding this language is that as election officials we have a large number of voters complaining that they got the "wrong" ballot (i.e., a ballot for the wrong party). This is because the voter failed to read the pre-populated application which pre-selected the party for them. In these situations voters need to return their ballot to the county election office before another ballot can be issued, which is a hassle for the voter and the county election officials as well.

The language under (3) above, is similar in nature. What needs to be dealt with are voters who say they never requested a mail in ballot for the November election. Again, the issue is the voter failed to read the application or realize that an annual ballot by mail had be pre-selected for them. If, as is often the case, the voter comes to vote in person but fails to bring his or her mail in ballot they are told they either need to go home and get it or vote provisionally. Neither option makes the voter a happy camper! Prohibiting the pre-population of this field will go a long way toward alleviating this problem.

I encourage the author to consider making these additions to his bill.

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Chris Garrett

NA

Corpus Christi, TX

Vote yes

No brainer. Voter are required to have secrecy and independent choice in voting.

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Richard Smith

Self

Corpus christi, TX

I vote yes

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shawn flanagan

self/retired

corpus christi, TX

VOTE YES-best bill on the docket today. Ends this enabling of fraud with pre filled in voter ballot application. Very needed reform.

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Jessie Carlson

self

Corpus Chrsiti, TX

Vote yes. Only the voter, at the proper time and place, should be allowed to fill out their ballot. Nothing should be pre filled out for anyone.

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Larry Ringler

Self-retired

Portland, TX

Vote YES! There should be no pre-filling out of viewer applications in order to ensure election integrity.

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Paula Clark

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Please vote FOR this bill

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Julie Lucky

Self

Hickory Creek, TX

No one should ever receive a ballot in the mail that is pre filled. If a person doesn't request a mail in ballot, they shouldn't be receiving one. Voting should be a simple process and it should be a criminal offense to tamper with ballots in this manner.

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RICHARD BOHNERT

self A/C contractor

COMFORT, TX

My name is Richard Bohnert. I live in Comfort, Texas Kerr county and I am in favor of HB 2320. I hope there will be teeth in this bill when a person is caught pre-filling applications for mail ballots. There needs to be a penalty for someone allowing a person to have applications to make it possible to pre-fill them. If a registrar is pre-filling applications, that registrar REALLY needs to be raked over the coals. How does a person get an application without showing an ID? Please pass this bill out of committee. Thank you.

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Margaret Najvar

Self - Retired

Corpus Christi, TX

NO pre-filled Early Voting applications for ballot by mail. I have worked on the Early Voting Ballot Board and witnessed the confusion of voters with receiving and sending it in for a Mail-in Ballot. This causes a voter to lose their right to vote, especially in the Primary Elections, when they don't realize the party ballot is already chosen for them and it is not the ballot they want to cast their vote. Thank you.

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Bonnie Seelig

Self Retired

Spicewood, TX

Support: These pre-filled applications for ballots remind one of the Harris County debacle. Also, during the Obama and Biden era, voter fraud was so bad that the federal government went so far as to organize a team of investigators to the Southern District of El Paso to investigate voter fraud in the form of cocaine for votes - filled out and ready to go.

Since most of these cases occur in senior centers, one would think that "elder abuse" charges would apply. Now we call it "ballot harvesting." It is so much easier when the vote is pre-filled. Omar Escobar, the DA of STAR county, has stories to tell of the sale of the ballot. Ballots in hand delivered to politicians for a price. It makes you wonder how many politicians are sitting in the legislature who have paid the price.

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Kathy Williams

Self/retired

Austin, TX

OPPOSED. This makes it impossible in some cases for people and helping organizations to send ballot applications to people they know are qualified. This bit of checking boxes that they are over 65 is helpful.

there is so much information on these forms that people with poor sight could miss the provision that allows them to receive ballots for an entire year and not realize that they will get successive ballots for a year without reapplying.

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